

I-85 EXPRESS LANES: DETERMINING THE PRICE

Overview

High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lane tolls such as those on the I-85 Express Lanes are based on the concept of dynamic pricing, in which the toll price changes accordingly to the level of congestion on the roadway. When HOT lanes become too congested, the price increases and this in turn reduces the number of cars entering the lane. Thus, the price will be higher during peak periods when demand is greater and lower during less congested periods.

Pricing of HOT Lane Projects in the United States

The table below displays the length, average price, and price range of various HOT lane facilities throughout the country.

Project	Length (Miles)	Average Peak Price*	Average Trip Price*	Price Range
I-15 in San Diego	12	\$0.50 - \$4.00	\$1.10	\$0.50 - \$8.00
SR 91 in Orange County	10	\$3.90 - \$9.55	\$3.01	\$1.25 - \$9.95
I-25 in Denver	7	\$3.50	\$2.35	\$0.50 - \$3.50
I-394 in Minneapolis	11	\$1.00 - \$4.00	\$1.25	\$0.25 - \$8.00
SR 167 in Seattle	9	\$1.00 - \$2.00	\$0.75	\$0.50 - \$9.00
I-10 in Houston	13	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
I-95 in Miami	7	\$1.90 - \$2.65	\$1.08	\$0.25 - \$6.20

Note: Average prices are from 2008-2009 data.

Process for Determining Pricing

The goal of this project is to provide commuters with a reliable travel option in the I-85 corridor, including peak hour speeds averaging greater than 45 mph in the I-85 Express Lanes. The estimated average trip length is 6 – 7 miles, with typical toll prices ranging from \$0.60 to \$6.00 depending on congestion. It is estimated that over 90 percent of customers will pay less than \$5.00 for their trip, including 25 percent of customers who will not pay any toll.

Ultimately, the price of the I-85 Express Lane at a specific location and point in time will be determined by consumer demand. The specific price range and conditions for adjusting the price will be determined by the project partners based upon detailed traffic forecasts and project goals.



Source: U. S. Department of Transportation

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